

The issue of gender equality and women's empowerment

студентка гр. АММ-41 Юрко Ю.В.

Сумський державний університет (Україна)

"The attitude to men and women is completely different in every society". Such conclusion was made by the development program of the United Nations in 1997.

More than 60 years ago in 1948 the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which stated that every person regardless of gender has the same rights and freedoms[1]. However in 1997 the report about human development says that no state is successful in achieving this goal. However the level of "underachievement" varies in each country. But still the Nordic countries such as Sweden, Norway and Iceland are famous as the states in which the level of gender inequality is the smallest. In developing countries however women are often faced with injustice which is sometimes difficult to understand. So we decided to describe and explore 5 the most common examples of gender inequality all around the world.

Professional obstacles.

For many decades women have been fighting for their right to occupy the vacant place on equal basis with men and this fight is not over. According to the latest statistics from the US Census women earn only 77 percent of what men earn for the same volume of work[3]. In addition to this gender gap in the size of salary one can hardly find women in senior positions in large companies. Women who took maternity leave often could not expect to come back on their previous working place. They faced with the discrimination or old-fashioned notions that woman could achieve nothing if she became pregnant and became a mother. Also it is worth to mention that these traditional female jobs like teaching and caring for children are among the lowest paid jobs. Still working women have one advantage over other women from some countries in which women are prohibited even leave the house.

Limited mobility.

Saudi Arabia is the most striking example of women's limited mobility: in this country women are not allowed to drive a car and ride a bike on the public roads. Strict Islamic laws in the country forbid women to leave their home without her husband's permission as it could potentially bring them into the contact with strange men. Saudi Arabia is the only one country which forbids women to drive however in some other countries women for example can't leave the state. And even women in developed countries may complain on the limited mobility. Despite the fact that these women have the legal right to drive or fly on an airplane they prefer not to go out at night because of the danger of rape or assault.

Access to education.

Most children among those who do not attend the school are girls now. And two-thirds of illiterate people in the world are women. Girls are often taken out of school in order to help with household chores, their fathers also can pick up them from the school if they are sure it is time to give them in marriage or the family has too little money for education of two children and therefore preference is given to the boy.

This education gap is even more frustrating when studies suggest that girls' education is the key to poverty eradication and the promotion of personal development. Girls who stay at school are less likely to marry at an early age and

they are more likely have family with fewer children. These women also earn more and invest in their families giving their daughters opportunity to receive an education. In fact the problem of inequality in education can help solve many other problems from this list.

Limited right on property.

In some countries, such as Chile and Lesotho women have no rights to own land. All documents include only male names whether the father or the husband of a woman. If one of these men die the woman will not have any legal rights to the land on which she lived and worked all her life[2]. Often widows homeless because the family of her dead husband drove them from their homes. Such limitation of rights is particularly acute in the rural areas where the primary and dominant activity – is agriculture. Women could spend their whole life cultivating and harvesting culture only for the right to live on this earth, which they lost as well as social protection if the father or the husband died or left.

Participation in political life.

Analysts often claim that many of the issues covered in this list could be solved if women had higher levels of participation in political life. Despite the fact that women make up half the world's population they occupy only 15.6 percent of seats in parliaments around the world. The absence of women can be traced at all levels of government - local, regional and national. But why is it so important for women to participate in politics? Studies that examined women in leadership positions in Bolivia, Cameroon and Malaysia, found that when women can participate in the formation of spending priorities they were more likely to invest in the family, community, health, education and the eradication of poverty than men which often invest in the arms industry. Some countries have experimented with a system of quotas to increase the number of women in politics, although these systems often criticized women in politics simply because they are women regardless of their qualifications.

We may see that the participation of women in all the spheres of the life may bring our society to harmony and prosperity. But until we all can't comprehend this interrelation we will continue to stay at one place without progress.

1. Краткий путеводитель по системе защиты прав человека в рамках ООН [Режим доступа] – <http://evolutio.info/content/view/25/38/>
2. Примеры гендерного неравенства во всем мире [Режим доступа] – <http://www.infoniac.ru/news/Primery-gendernogo-neravenstva-vo-vsem-mire.html>
3. United States Census [Режим доступа] – <http://www.census.gov/>.

Науковий керівник: к.е.н., доц. **Валенкевич Л.П.**

Юрко, Ю.В. The issue of gender equality and women's empowerment [Текст] / Ю.В. Юрко, кер. Л.П. Валенкевич // Економічні проблеми сталого розвитку: матеріали Міжнародної науково-практичної конференції імені проф. Балацького О.Ф., м. Суми, 27 травня 2015 р. / За заг. ред.: О.В. Прокопенко, М.М. Петрушенка. — Суми : СумДУ, 2015. — С. 436-437.